

The structure was erected inside the fort string of houses and was 20x40 feet in size. A large open fireplace and chimney was built in each end, large enough to take logs of wood three to four feet long. It was the assignment of the Deacons to keep logs on the fire. Families took turns making and furnishing candles for the meetings.

Even though the building was built of logs and had only a dirt floor and hand-hewn furniture, the people rejoiced for it and gave thanks for its protection and its purpose whenever they met within its walls.

As the little settlement sank its roots deeper into the Wasatch soil the need for a permanent name became apparent. Out of this need grew the name Heber City.

According to the journal of John Crook nearly all the early pioneers of Provo Valley had been converted to the gospel in Great Britain. Since Heber C. Kimball, beloved counselor to President Brigham Young, had been in charge of the first group of missionaries to the British Isles, there was popular acclaim to name the town after him.

When he learned of the decision to name the new community after him, President Kimball came to the town and met with the people. In his remarks he is reported to have said:

"Now you people have named your little town after me. I want you to see to it that you are honest, upright citizens and good Latter-day Saints that I may not have cause to be ashamed of you."

In addition to raising crops and building homes, the people also began to build barns, stables and other shelters for their oxen and cattle during the coming winter.

Because the animals grazed on open range lands during the summer months it also became necessary to build fences around the various sections of land that were under cultivation so that the cattle would not ruin the precious crops.

The need for fences gave rise to a curious political office—that of fence viewer. These officials were elected and given authority to compel people, if necessary, to build and keep in repair their fences. Estimates were made and it was determined that a rod of fence for each acre of land was required to enclose the field. Each person was responsible for his own land and fences. The most common type of fence was the "worm fence" or zig-zag construction that required no nails or wire to build.

Everyone was kept extremely busy during this time in making roads into the canyons so that fence poles could be brought out and logs could be obtained for building. Hay also had to be provided from the range lands for cattle during the long winter.

As harvest time came the early frosts again plagued the people. Even though the frosts caused the wheat to shrink somewhat, it was still suitable for flour. It was during the harvest season in 1860 that the first threshing machine was brought into the county.

Two men, identified only as Smith and Bullock, brought the machine

*Horse - Powered Threshing  
Machine in <sup>Murdock</sup> Deep Creek Ranch  
of James Stacey Murdock about 1930.  
The man on the machine is  
James Stacey Murdock.*



to the valley. It was small and threshed very slowly, using horses as its source of power. When the grain had been through the machine it still had to be run through a fanning mill to separate the kernels from the chaff. This mill was hand operated and also very slow. As a result, some of the grain did not get harvested before winter set in.

The prospects of winter seemed less bleak that year for there were many more people in the valley and more adequate preparations had been made. To help the time pass more quickly, a dramatics group was organized. Some very good plays were produced with John Crook, James Duke, C. N. Carroll, John Gallagher and John Jordan taking the leads.

The saints also could look forward to regular Church services on Sundays in their new meeting house. A choir was organized to help with the music and John Crook, talented in many lines, served as the choir leader.



JOHN CROOK

Original Settler and Early Historian

Schools were also conducted during the winter months for the education of the people. John M. Young was the first school teacher and the classes were held in the meeting house with students sitting on rough benches or stools using make-shift desks fastened to the walls.

There were other interests in the new valley, too, for the records show that on Christmas Day, 1860, Charles C. Thomas claimed as his bride, Emmaline Sessions. They were married by Thomas Rasband in the first ceremony to be performed in the valley. That evening another couple, Harvey Meeks and a Miss Dougal were married at Center Creek by Silas Smith.